

22nd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2023

Item 6: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues

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Taigüei (Greetings), Madame Chair.

Over the past several years, Indigenous Peoples from Guam and representatives of the United Confederation of Taíno People (UCTP), specifically from the archipelago of Borikén (Puerto Rico), continue to highlight the need for an **Expert Group Meeting on the Situation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in self-governing, non-self-governing, and non-incorporated territories**. In 2008, the Permanent Forum, in your report to ECOSOC, made a similar call regarding this issue, but no action has been taken to date.

Madame Chair, within the context of the Climate Crisis and COVID 19 Recovery, it is critical to address the issue of Indigenous Peoples in all forms of so-called “territorial possessions” as we are often completely overlooked in discussions focusing on Indigenous Peoples. We therefore recommend that the Forum:

1. Convene an Expert Group Meeting on the Situation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in self-governing, non-self-governing, and non-incorporated territories by 2025. Coordination with and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples from such territories in this meeting is critical.

Additionally, the United Confederation of Taíno People are also concerned with implementation of the World Conference Outcome Document.

We therefore also recommend that Permanent Forum:

2. Support and coordinate an international review of the World Conference Outcome document’s implementation, including shortfalls of its commitments.

Hahom (Thank you).

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